



# The ASBC Pages

## *Letter from the ASBC's Incoming President...*

As this is my first President's Letter, it appears to be customary to introduce myself prior to discussing the issues I wish to address while President of the ASBC.

I am a student and largely a product of the academy. Currently, I am studying at Simon Fraser University, conducting research on site location modelling in archaeology. This project is nested in the Tla'amin-SFU Field School in Archaeology and Heritage Stewardship. My exposure to and experience in archaeology is founded in projects like this, which are designed to collaborate with heritage owners and originate from large educational institutions. These projects have primarily been located in British Columbia. I have been an ASBC member since the early 00s and served the ASBC as the Vice-President and website maintainer for the past two years.

During my membership to the ASBC, efforts have been placed on engaging the media, organizing walking tours and site excavations, adapting ASBC working principles to changing relationships between archaeologists and heritage owners, and working with museums to catalogue existing collections. These are all significant contributions towards our mandates of protecting archaeology in B.C. and continuing ongoing efforts to engage and educate the public. However, it has become clear that there is a widening gap between activities that the ASBC organizes and the interest and participation of members at these events. Discussion at the AGM and elsewhere have emphasized a poor connection between the needs and wants of members and the current program and format of the ASBC. This gap needs to be addressed for the ASBC to continue to function as a membership organization and provide support for *The Midden*. Our first course of action towards this end has involved surveying current and former members to determine what changes are needed to better engage our membership. The results of the survey, once compiled, will be made

available online and in an upcoming issue of *The Midden*.

However, this is not the only matter that is of concern to me. As featured recently in *The Midden*, archaeology has been poorly represented in the media and a great deal of misinformation is circulating regarding archaeology and its practice in British Columbia. I believe that the ASBC has a vocal role to play in these discussions in representing our core values as laid out in the Constitution.

The Society's Executive will also need to focus inward on societal organization, by-laws, proposed changes to the Constitution, and fiscal matters to address the ongoing issues outlined above. This will mean that outward-facing committees will need your help and participation to continue regular Society activities, which have been carried by the Executive in the past. If you have ever considered giving some of your time to the ASBC, now is the time to act.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge those currently contributing to the operation of the ASBC, as the Society would not function without their generous contributions to the ASBC Executive. Continuing as Treasurer and general contributor to all issues ASBC is Jim Pound. Rudy Reimer will be assisting the Executive in the position of Past-President, and Sarah Smith will formally take her position as Membership secretary, after taking over for Erin Hannon late last year. New to the Executive this year is Rich Hutchings as Vice-President, and Kristy Whitehurst as our Secretary. I look forward to serving the ASBC membership with this Executive.

Cheerio,

**Craig Rust, President**  
**Archaeological Society of British Columbia**